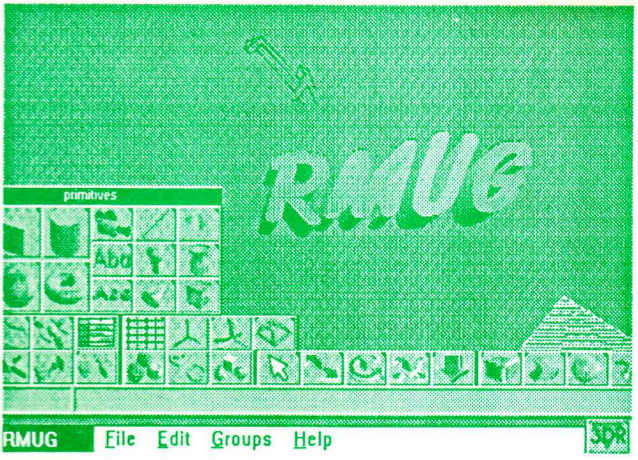
RM User

Volume 10:3
September 1995



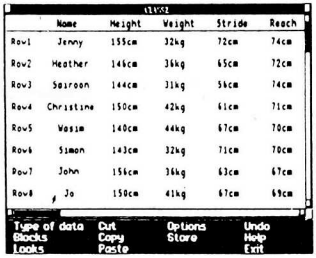
New from SPA

SPARKS

SPA WORKS

A highly versatile data handling program – Spreadsheet, Database and much more.

And... include PaintSpa pictures!

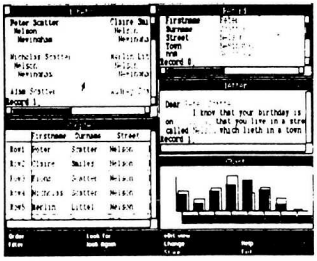


	Name	Height	Weight	Stride	Reach
Row1	Jenny	155cm	32kg	72cm	74cm
Row2	Heather	146cm	36kg	65cm	72cm
Row3	Sairoon	144cm	31kg	56cm	74cm
Row4	Christine	150cm	42kg	61cm	71cm
Row5	Wasim	140cm	44kg	67cm	70cm
Row6	Simon	143cm	32kg	71cm	70cm
Row7	John	156cm	36kg	63cm	67cm
Row8	Jo	150cm	41kg	67cm	69cm

Type of data Books Looks | Cut Copy Paste | Options Store | Undo Help Exit

For the beginner

- Menus like WriteOn and PaintSpa
- Easy to read typefaces
- Grows up with the user



More advanced users

Multiple windows onto your data ●
Easy WYSIWYG database design ●
Full set of functions ●

IBM **£59** Nimbus 186 **£59** IBM Net/16users **£179** Nimbus 186 Net/16 users **£179**

Buy the Nimbus version and the IBM version is half price! (& vv). Please add VAT

SPA

Software Production Associates

PO Box 59, Tewkesbury GL20 6AB

Tel: 0684 833700

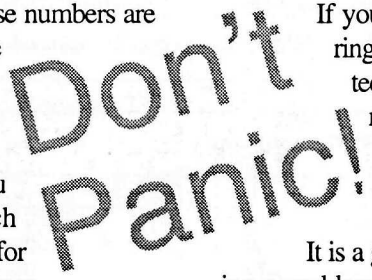
Fax: 0684 833718

Send for more information

RMUG HelpLine

The RM User Group exists to help its members use the computers which they have. The magazine is the main way we communicate with our members. If you find that it's not covering the areas you want to know about, then phone someone listed at the back and let them know what you would like to see; the chances are that you won't be the only person who has the same needs.

Many of you (about 20%) are home users of Nimbus computers and we would like to help you. Do please phone any of the people whose numbers are listed at the back of the magazine and we will do our best to help.



You may find that you have a problem which you feel is too trivial for Customer Support or you may have a problem with which they can't help, perhaps because you have a non-standard setup for your equipment or you are using third-party equipment. This is the time when we may be able to help.

Remember that you can telephone the User Group members in the evening or at weekends when RM is shut (and, of course, you are most likely to hit problems).

Also, RM don't claim to have great knowledge of products which they don't produce, such as Excel or PageMaker. They can tell you how to install the packages on their equipment and how to get started but they cannot be expected to give you in depth support on using the packages. We, on the other hand, can. Most of the people whose phone numbers are listed at the back are using a range of software which is probably the same as yours on a daily basis. We may have met exactly the problem you have just encountered.

If you are in difficulty, please ring anybody on the Committee (see page 34) and you may also phone Tim Phillips at home on 0284 706623.

It is a great help if you are having a problem doing something using your computer if you can be next to it when you phone because it may then be possible to talk you through a solution over the phone.

If your problem is not urgent, or you think it may be difficult to explain over the phone, then do please write to the Editor with your query. I will either reply to you directly or pass your query on to a better person to solve it or publish your letter in the next magazine as a request for help.

© *RM User Group 1995*

Contents

Software Production Associates 2
HelpLine 3
Contents 4
Deadlines for the next issues 4
Missing a Magazine? 4
News and Editorial 5
The Real Thing 8
The Sage on the Stage 10
Training Weekend/AGM 13
Micromart 13
Tales from the Riverbank 14
RM Direct 17,20
Training Weekend Poster 18,19
Hard Disc Problems 23
DP's Bookmarks 24
Dialling the WWW on Windows 95 25
Training Weekend Details 27,28
Shoptalk 29
Your Magazine 32
Advertising in the Magazine 32
Membership Form 33
Committee Members 1995/1996 34
Cumana 35
FLO 36

Deadlines for the next issues

RM User 10:4 ..... 25 October 1995
RM User 10:5 ..... 18 January 1996

The date shown above is the *latest* date for copy for the magazine. You will normally receive the magazine about 2-3 weeks after the date shown.

Missing a Magazine?

Back issues of the magazine are available from the editor - please write for more details.

 © *RM User Group 1995*

News and Editorial

Time to Connect!

RM Connect should be available by the time you read this. This uses Windows NT on the server(s) which can deliver Windows 3.1, Windows 95, Apple or Acorn software to your stations. RM say that they have done less 'tweaking' than ever before but have also added more and better services for the network manager. It has been described and NT with 'Nowt Taken out'! It certainly looks good and - as you would hope - the management modules are more efficient than their forerunners. They are certainly infinitely better than those available in NT itself. I am once again staggered by the way the Microsoft accept clunky ways of getting things done. I can only assume that this comes about as their engineers develop trial techniques and then accept them since they have got used to them (much the same way that DOS appeared). What I can't understand is why the beta testers don't howl in protest. Perhaps they are from the same pool as those people that RM do their market research on who prefer to pay separately for their technical support! There is one possible extenuating circumstance which is that some of these processes, such as creating new users, only happen on a small scale in most businesses - unlike schools where there is a big shift every year. Similarly, RM have always handled the load patterns of school use (mass logon and off every lesson) very well.

95 Notes

Windows 95 will look very familiar to Apple users with its folders on the desktop and verbose file names. By some immutable law of computing, there will be one or two bugs in it. There are several reports of problems printing to some of the popular new printers (why doesn't that surprise me?) I noticed that there were at least three ways the open a window showing 'My Work'. Two of these actually opened new windows rather than bringing the original window to the top of the screen. If you keep going backwards and forwards between these choices - and I just KNOW that some of my users will do this - you could end up with an awful lot of open windows. The old shortcuts like Alt-Tab still allow you to page through your open applications but there is a new shortcut area in the form of the Taskbar at the bottom (you can move it elsewhere) of the screen. I liked this but didn't realise for a while that you could resize it too. You might find this useful if you have a number of buttons on it since they get smaller and more cryptic as they multiply. Another tip - remember to use the 'Install applications' option in Control Panels when installing new software since it will make it easier to un-install later.

Please look at page 14 for more information about Windows 95

 © *RM User Group 1995*

Sorry

I usually have a couple of apologies to offer you and this issue is no exception. I repeated myself, I managed to get the right tag on the left page master but not on the right. Perhaps I should emulate the 'big' magazines who are delivering their copies some six weeks ahead of the printed date. I repeated myself (ironically about brain control) and I failed dismally to correct Maureen's phone number. I wonder where my little set of gremlins will go to work on this one. I can actually answer at least part of that question already since the issue of the magazine has been delayed by having to wait for material and my dictionary has been corrupted - of course a lot of you knew that already!

Themes

If this issue has a theme, it is probably Windows 95. I had hoped that the theme would be 'How to Survive an Inspection' but some stuff I was hoping for did not come through. If you have any comments or tips to pass on on the topic please send them in to me. I am sure a lot of you have come through smiling - and the rest of us would like to know how you did it!! There may well be even more to learn from people who had problems. If you care to pass on a tale of woe, it may save someone else from the same grief. I will even print your story anonymously if that will help.

The Good Old Days

While cruising through the archives of ten years ago I noticed some interesting features - firstly our advertising rates have not changed in ten years and secondly this quote - 'To all of us it has seemed that the recommendations from RM personnel and education advisers are at times some way from meeting the needs of the ultimate users.' I feel very strongly that if our main cause is to support users, or next aim should be to let RM know how they could do better. I noted with interest that there was also a competition for a cover design and a request for articles. Can I then make a decade appeal for both! I still have a CDROM as a prize for a design for the magazine and I would be very happy to print more of your contributions. The issue contained several pages of program listings. That is something we have moved away from - how about some macros?

Virus Update

Speaking of macros, Dr Solomons have announced that they have identified a virus which is transmitted in Word 6 documents in the form of a macro. This is apparently the first time that viruses have travelled in data files rather than executable files. It is also a multi-platform virus and can be passed from Word6 on a Mac to a PC running Word6 on Windows 3.1, NT or 95, no prejudice there then. There is some concern that it will spread rapidly. The first time it runs a message box appears with a 1 in it. From then on, normal.dot is infected and all documents produced will carry the virus. You can detect it by clicking on Tools, Macros and checking the

© *RM User Group 1995*

macros available. If you see macros named AAAZFS, AAAZAO, AutoOpen, Payload and FileSaveAs then the document is infected. You can call Dr Solomon on 01296 318700. This story got even stranger with the news that Microsoft were reported to have inadvertently shipped this virus to developers on a CDROM marked 'Windows 95 Software Compatibility Test'. Needless to say, if you have one of these discs you should (a) treat it with caution and (b) look after it since it may become a collectors' item. There are also predictions that Windows 95 will prove a fertile bed for virus developers since it is more open than previous versions.

Humour at work

I read an amusing story about some people on an IT course with London Transport who entered a message into their master computer which produced the message 'All signalmen are wankers' on the 'Next Train Approaching' boards at random intervals in the 12 hour period before the Tube strike at the beginning of this month. Strangely enough no passengers complained about this but one or two staff did! I read about this story in Network Week. This is a new publication and if you call David Redfearn (please mention RM User) on 0171 208 5166 he will send you an application form for a free copy. In fact if you follow up any 'lead' that you get from reading this magazine, please mention it since it will result in us getting more timely information to deliver to you.

Come on BT

I am still waiting for BT to drop the price of ISDN lines. My brother has one to his flat in Germany so he can use remote access to the network in his office and it costs very little more than an ordinary phone line. Although BT is moving in the right direction with their phone charges and there are some interesting developments in the area of speeding up data transmission, I would much rather have access to the higher bandwidth available on ISDN if it was more economical.

Chip Envy

Always worried about not having the latest chip? Intel has just won a contract to build a supercomputer using 9000 P6 chips. It should be the first computer to break the tetraflop level of operation.

Promotion

In the centre of this magazine you should find a small poster advertising the Training Weekend. Please photocopy it and post it in your staff room in the hope that some of your colleagues will consider trying this very pleasant way of getting some very high quality INSET.

© *RM User Group 1995*

Is that the real thing?

Geoff Nelder

Years ago I sent for a shareware program called Vistapro. It used fractals to generate a virtual landscape given some basic data. The data could be the x, y and z co-ordinates from a map where x and y are eastings and northings and z, the height. The trouble was that the processing power I had then took a week to generate anything interesting.

Now, we have a zillion times the speed, co-processors, SVGA and hot and cold folding doors so Vistapro is worth another look.

I must admit that I have a vested interest. As a geographer and cyclist I have always been interested in slopes and the form of the landscape. Even so I was not prepared for the hours and hours of my life spent open-mouthed at the Grand Canyon, Crater Lake, Venus and Mars when I should be assessing the 137 IT projects waiting for me.

It gets better. The Ordnance Survey have digitised Britain and a small but clever company, Confluence, 45 minutes from me in Powys is able to convert the data to a form that Vistapro can use. Now I lose more sleep watching Snowdon and the Lake District unfolding before me.

The educational value of Vistapro revealed itself as DofE and Geography students viewed their expedition routes and potential camp sites. Then they discovered how to animate them and create fly-throughs!

The trouble is that the animations used, say, 200 frames, which at full frame could be 50 MB. There are options to save and view half frame movies which are quite acceptable and exciting that take about 13 MB. If the computer has less than 8MB RAM the movies become less fluid. Looking around for my largest available hard disk to hold more than two movies, my eye fell on the file server. It was then that I discovered that the CD version of Vistapro3 will not network on LM and nor would the Windows version unless you have hard disk stations. Luckily, the non-CD DOS version does work perfectly on LM. However, part of the program has a shell-to-DOS option to get at other aspects of the suite so users could get it. Damage? Besides deleting saved files users could copy everything on P to N.

Where can you find its use in the NC? Well it is modelling but you would be pressed to show how you are verifying, testing, changing variables etc but I'm working on it. How come the advent of the NC seems to have taken most of the creative fun out of teaching? One useful application in Geography is in visualising the landscape in 3d. You can build dams and see the effects of flood-

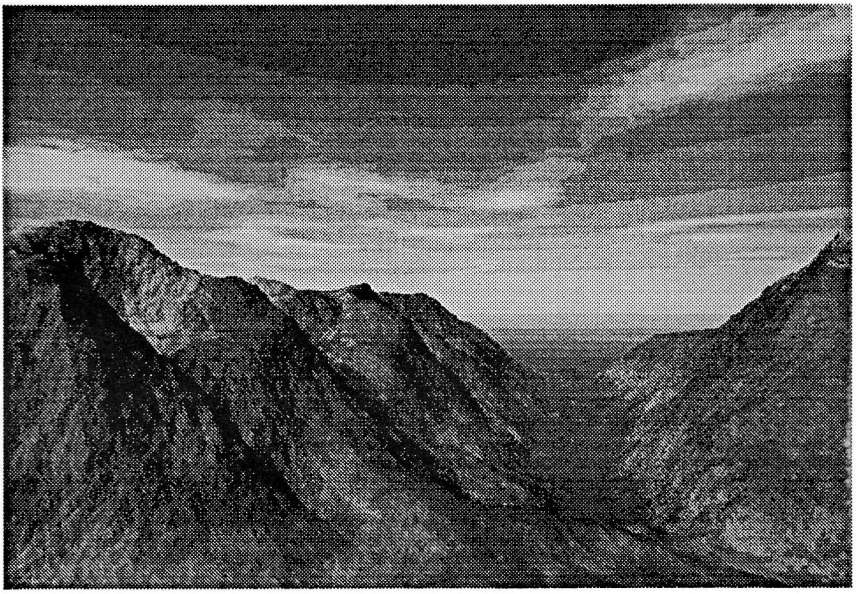
© *RM User Group 1995*

ing, watch Mt. St Helens blow apart with the morphing facility, see the landscape without the confusion of vegetation and buildings, see the effects of putting a wind farm on a landscape, rising sea-level and much more.

One problem now is that whenever I see a mountain or valley I try to estimate how much fractalisation detail was used to Vistapro it!

Vistapro (about £60) and the British Landscapes (£50 for British Highlights, Snowdonia and Lake District all in) can be obtained from Confluence, Little Collfryn, Penrhos, Llanymynech, Powys SY22 6QQ tel and fax 01938 590266

I've been in touch with Vistapro's creators, Virtual Reality Labs Inc. over network licensing, and they are happy for experimenting to take place.



 © *RM User Group 1995*

A GUIDE AT THE SIDE OR A SAGE ON THE STAGE

A Personal View by Professor Peter Cochrane

Professor Peter Cochrane
Head of Research, BT Laboratories
Martlesham Heath
IPSWICH IP5 7RE

Imagine a school without books, pens, pencils or paper. Imagine this school with children that can read and write, but with teachers who cannot, and you have a metaphor of the information age in which we live. Whilst children are embracing IT and rapidly gaining skills, the teaching profession remains dominated by a population resisting, or unable to see the need for, change.

True, most of our schools have computers, but on average they are over five years old and under used.

Many children now live in homes awash with TV, Video, hi-fi, games machines and PCs. A smaller number have access to libraries of CDs and the Internet.

Their first encounter with a computer may now be before 1 year old, and by 5 they have absolutely no technofear. They have an expectation and need for more as they are enticed by this instant gratification technology, and a growing incredulity at an education process that has changed little since the ancient Greeks. To quote one 15 year old involved in our education programme who recently remarked, "This is hopeless - my teacher will not accept my homework on a floppy!" Quite rightly, this pupil balked at the retrograde attitude of his elders. Homework, searching for information, report preparation, mathematics, analysis and results presentation is now predominately created on the screen by such pupils. The problem is often the teacher - not necessarily the school!

Technophobia is a natural reaction to the pace of change we now have to live with, but there is a cure - get immersed and use the technology to advantage!

But how are isolated individuals to do this? Specifically, how is a teacher to afford such a personal facility? Without doubt getting on a machine, by yourself, and avoiding that critical eye when making mistakes has a lot going for it. An understanding friend who has recently survived the same learning curve can also be of great benefit. Reading the handbook and going through the tutorial is not! Learning IT skills is more about playing than formalism. Watch young children on PCs, they never look at the handbook, they play and share their experience, they have no inhibitions about making mistakes and looking foolish in front of their peers. They just fly, crash and burn, and start again. This is something adults can learn to do and enjoy too - even in front of a class!

If as a nation we are serious about

© *RM User Group 1995*

getting IT into our schools and to our population, we need to be innovative in solving the funding and access problems. Keeping equipment and software up to date is an expensive exercise for individuals and institutions. Perhaps teachers should have the benefit of interest free loans, or tax free packages to get the technology into their home for private learning. Perhaps schools could open their doors in the evening and run commercial IT classes for the general public to create extra revenues. Perhaps we will soon see the pupils themselves arriving at school with their lap top or hand held in the same bag as their pen, pencil and ruler! Does the system always have to provide everything, or will we see the individual become responsible for such provision? After all this is already the case for pocket calculators!

The direction set by technology is interesting with TV, games and PC facilities now being integrated into a single box. Within five years we are likely to see such integrated systems becoming prevalent, whilst the power of lap tops and hand-helds will increase and their cost will fall. Of course we should worry about the underprivileged who will not be able to fend for themselves in such a world. However, observing the domestic spending habits of the majority of the population, with weekly video rentals, software, games and hi-fi purchases, it is easy to see where a #163#600 per annum IT spend might be found. Perhaps with some safety net, some tax advantage or grant system for education, no new money is required!

Assuming financial solutions can be found, what might the impact on teaching and employment be? Well, looking at other countries, and some of our own universities, we already see degree courses you can attend, but you will fail without your own PC. Some industries already reject job applicants with no IT skills as it is as debilitating as not being able to read and write! Soon this will be the case in education. As we say in my organisation - if you're not on line you don't exist!

Those who think that teaching IT involves pupils seated in neat rows with a computer terminal each, all acting in unison under the direction of a teacher are in for a shock.

For millennia the teacher has been a 'sage on the stage', the font of all knowledge, the authoritarian figure. IT will challenge that position, and change the relationship with the pupils to become more of a 'guide at the side'. Those who think that teaching IT involves pupils seated in neat rows with a computer terminal each, all acting in unison under the direction of a teacher are in for a shock. Better you just load the software, seat the pupil, and walk away. Return in a couple of days and most will be reasonably capable, and a class network will have evolved with the rapid sharing of newly discovered facilities and techniques. No books, no

© *RM User Group 1995*

formalism, almost chaotic - and the teacher needs to be a part of it. More of a coach, more of a guide, no longer a demigod!

Some studies claim that children working with IT learn 50% faster and retain 80% more than conventional methods. Given the choice of a paper or multi-media CD based encyclopaedia children go for the CD every time. It is interactive, pictographic, and fun. On the down side, it is also very often shallow and wholly American based. So children quickly learn about American history, spelling and culture, to the detriment of their European heritage.

Get them on networks and they hunt down the information they need with surprising ease. Increasingly, the on-line library, the CD collection, and top end computer at home will entice them in this direction. IT will dramatically change the balance of education. However, it is unlikely to totally wipe out the old paradigm: the social aspects of the class, the group activity and interaction will still be needed. In industry we now see organisations being virtualised - people work from home, hotel, car, train and plane, but they still go to the office for human interaction. Perhaps education will follow - for some pupils it has already has!

IT is not an 'instead of' but an 'as well as' technology. It is unlikely to replace the teacher or the school, but it will change their nature. In future, education will have to be more available, just in time, and on line as it becomes a continuous life long process. We are probably looking at changes greater than those introduced by the migration from the quill pen, to the printing press and the felt tip. One change will create another, and a new breed of teacher will emerge, IT literate, or retired!

© *RM User Group 1995*

AGM Reminder

I would like to point out that at the last AGM it was decided that we should hold our next Meeting at the Training Weekend so that more people would have access to it. It is scheduled for 11:45am on Saturday the 20th October. You may attend the meeting without signing up for the Training Weekend but please let us know if you are planning to do this and stay for lunch.

Micromart

For sale - surplus to our needs. All in excellent working order.

7 Nimbus 186 mice; brand new, unused. £30 each or (preferably) £175 the lot.
2 Z-Net M-series network cards. £50 each.
1 60MB hard disk for X-series with interface card. £80.
1 M-series Nimbus 286 with Z-Net card; 2MB RAM, 30MB hard disk, including monitor. £550.
1 Cumana Cartridge Hard disk system for Nimbus 186, including 3 10MB cartridges. £100.

(Prices don't include VAT, but we will pay for post and packing for you.)
Offers to SPA, PO Box 59, Tewkesbury, GL20 6AB tel (01684) 833700.

hello David,

Could you put into the next RM User in the 'For Sale / Requests' column that we would like to purchase 2 M series ethernet cards, preferably with NetLM boot ROMs.#

We have 16 plus Z net cards for M series 'going for a song'!

Regards

Richard Horton - Head of IT - Harrogate Ladies' College
Clarence Drive Harrogate N Yorks HG1 9QG 01423 504543

For Sale:-
186 with 20M Hard Disc, monitor, keyboard + mouse, possibly with a trolley too. Please call Wendy Nicholson, 0171 207 0463 with an offer.

© *RM User Group 1995*

Tales From the Riverbank

By Steve Rochford

Unless you've been deliberately ignoring all the news about Microsoft you will know that Windows 95 was finally launched on August 24. I've spent some time working with the preview version that has been available for some time and these comments are based on that experience. Before you read the rest of this you probably need to know that I'm really quite pleased with the whole thing; like many people I spend more time worrying about the things which irritate me than praising the things which please me!

I installed it on an RM 486 DX/2 66 PCI Accelerator system to which I've added a Panasonic CD ROM drive and a Sound Blaster 16 clone card. Installation was straight forward - you put the CD in the drive, start Windows and then run the setup program from the CD (once you've found it, of course; it's called d:\win95\ win95\ setup) It took a while to run but it identified everything correctly except the video card. It correctly detected a Trident PCI card and installed a working driver but one which did not allow lots of colours at high resolution; I think it was designed for an earlier version of the card than the one which RM ship. It all worked, however, and I've since got hold of a newer driver which gives access to the full capabilities of the card.

Microsoft's big claim for '95 is that it's easier to use, both for novices and experienced computer users and it makes computing quicker and more fun. I've been working with Windows since version 1 and have got fairly familiar with how it all works and I'm also pretty familiar with DOS so I'd guess I don't fit in the novice group. It's certainly very easy to get going - you click the button labelled Start and a menu appears. Double clicking has now disappeared from most things and won't be missed. Although I can cope with doing it I've found many people, both old and young, who have real problems trying to double click. Most of the short cuts which were in Windows 3.1 are still there; you can press ALT Tab to swap between active applications but Ctrl Esc no longer brings up Task Manager, instead the Start Menu appears. The disadvantage of this is that I've got used to the fact that when I get bored or I'm waiting for something to print I can just ALT Tab to Program Manager and start Solitaire. This doesn't work with '95 because Program Manager isn't there. Some lateral thinking, however, solves the problem. You can add programs to the Start Menu in various ways and one of them has now put Solitaire as the first option on it. This means that Ctrl Esc, down key, Enter starts Solitaire which is fine!

Microsoft have made a lot of fuss about the fact that the desktop is now usable - you can put things there. These can be either programs, documents or folders and this is supposed to make it easier to

© *RM User Group 1995*

work. For example, if you want to create a new Word document you click the right mouse button on the desktop, choose New from the pop up menu and then select a Word document from the list. Double clicking on this new icon (sadly, double clicking hasn't gone completely and, worse, if you double click too slowly instead of nothing happening you get to the point where you can rename the document!) launches Word and lets you type. You don't have to worry about where the document is saved - it's just on the desktop. I'm not sure that I like this. I can see value in having a small number of important documents on the desktop - I've put my Cardfile list of phone numbers and the Notepad file which is my "to do" list there- but if you put many things there then you would soon get very cluttered. A better idea seems to be to have a folder present on the desktop. I have a folder called Work (it used to be a directory called Work but now it's called a folder) and there are many folders inside this; personal, school, year7 and so on. Opening each folder shows the documents in it with icons which reflect the creating application. You can then just double click a document and it will open the relevant application. You could, of course, have done much the same thing with file manager in Windows 3.1 (although you wouldn't have had the icons; I'm quite good at reading and I don't find the icons absolutely necessary!)
The real problem for me was that if an application is running you can't see the desktop (I tend to always run applications maximised) so you can't quickly get at any of the files you've put there. You can't Alt Tab to the desktop (because it's not an application) so the only way to get there is to minimise what you're working with. I didn't like this and found it very frustrating; I don't know if I'll ever get used to it. I suspect that if you have a 17" monitor running at a high resolution then you could have your application in a good sized window and still have the important parts of your desktop showing but I only have a 14" monitor and no money to upgrade! You can also drag files into the relevant application from any folder and they will automatically open and you can drag files to a printer and they will get printed. You could, of course, do something very similar with File Manager and an application or Print Manager for printing. One thing I found very irritating was dragging a file onto a minimised application. If you drag a document onto an application icon on the taskbar then instead of opening or printing the document you get a message telling you that you cannot do this. Instead you must drag the document over the icon, hold it there for a short time and wait for the application window to open. When this has happened you can then drag the document into the now open window. I don't understand the logic behind this; to me it's in the same league as BBC Basic telling me that there's a missing inverted comma at the end of the line. If it knows it's missing then why can't it assume that I meant to put it there and put it in for me; similarly why can't '95

© *RM User Group 1995*

assume that the reason I've dragged the wretched document over the icon is because I want the application to deal with it!

One of the big benefits of '95 is its support for long file names; one of my colleagues was keen to upgrade just for this reason. It's worth noting, however, that long filenames only work with new applications. Programs like Word 2 still restrict you to the 8 letter names you're used to when saving (but you can rename the files once they've been saved; I'm not sure if this is worth the trouble, however, because when you go to use File Open you only get to see the 8 letter short name) If you can afford to move to Word 7 and Excel 7 then you get full support for long names and this is welcome. My only reservation is that the 8 letter names force you to think carefully about the name and so I end up with structure names which group nicely in File Manager (all worksheets about Excel are given a name starting with XL so when I want to find a particular file I know that it will start with XL and the next 6 letters will tell me something about it - XLCHART1 would be the first worksheet about making charts in Excel, for example). If you can give names like "First lesson on charts in Excel", "Building a database in Excel" and so on then it might not be so easy to find files but I don't think this would cause any real problem.

Office 95 comes with an indexing tool which builds an index of all your documents and then allows you to find any file quickly. For example, I just asked it to find all the Excel worksheets containing the word "date" in my work area. It took just 6 seconds to find 7 files (out of 62 Excel files) which is quite impressive. It takes a while to build the index initially but from then on the process is automatic - I'm not sure how it decides when to update the index but it does it completely transparently so that you are never forced to stop and wait for it.

I've not spent a lot of time using the Office 95 applications; from what I've seen they are quite similar to Word 6 and Excel 5 with just a few additions to make them easier. The most impressive thing I've seen was the spell checker in Word. As soon as you open a document it's automatically spell checked, even while you're working, and misspelt words are given a squiggly red underline. You can then correct these words by right clicking on them and either selecting a correct word or adding the word to the dictionary. I still use Word 2 and Excel 4 as my main tools (because most of the computers at school are 286s and the newer versions won't run on these) and on a 486 these programs are very quick. Moving to Office 95 was a real backwards step as far as I was concerned because everything seemed so much slower. I suspect that if you've just started using a computer and have been using Word 6 then moving to Word 7 (or is it called Word '95?) will seem like an improvement; there are various small changes which are supposed to make it easier to use. Moving from Word 2 to Word 7 without increasing

continued on page 21

© *RM User Group 1995*

FOCUS on SECURITY

NEW PRODUCTS FROM *RM DIRECT !*

'Blocker' and 'Blocker Plus'

Imagine turning your computer on and finding it didn't work because major components had been stolen, with no external visible sign of theft. This scenario can be avoided by securing access to the INSIDE of your PC with a 'Blocker', or buy the 'Blocker Plus' and lock the computer to your desk as well.

- two metal studs are secured to the back panel using existing screws
- strong metal bar threads laterally through the studs and is secured with a heavy duty padlock, preventing removal of the back panel and case
- pass monitor, keyboard, printer cables behind bar for extra protection
- 'Blocker Plus' is linked to a cable and pad which can then be screwed or glued to your desk for extra protection
- both systems very quickly and easily fitted

'Blocker'	£18.95	047-264
'Blocker Plus'	£25.00	047-668

'MINDER' security lock

An effective solution to computer theft, easily fitted to any metal-based PC. Approved by many major insurance companies.

- seven lever anti-pick safe lock will prove a major obstacle to the 'smash and grab' thief
- neat and unobtrusive but very securely fitted to your desk with strong plates, screws and adhesives
- key can only be removed when locked, you can never leave it accidentally unlocked
- glues or screws your computer to the desk with upto 1400kg of resistance to removal
- single keying available for multiple installations - IDEAL FOR NETWORKS

Security cable system	£25.00	045-019
NoteBook security kit	£25.00	037-117

Retainaguard property marking

A unique method of property marking, ideal for marking computers, printers, fax machines - in fact anything that could be of interest to a thief.

- each pack contains a template with a unique security code for the items to be coded (1 pack marks 3 items)
- simple application of the etching fluid permanently marks the equipment within 90 seconds!
- safe to use - fluids have COSH approval
- you tell the National Property Register what your codes are - once registered your property can always be traced back to you via the 24hr NPSR checkline

"In my experience, security systems like Retainaguard do deter thieves. I would strongly recommend Retainaguard to every individual and organisation as an important part of their overall security operation"

Sir Peter Imbert QPM, Retired Commissioner, Metropolitan Police

Retainaguard - single pack	£4.15	047-321
Retainaguard - 25 pack	£99.75	047-322

Security cable system - for desktop and portable PCs

A versatile system to help deter theft. Simple to install, remarkably effective and excellent value for money.

- desktop pack comprises padlock and 3 heavy duty pads - an anchor pad and two further pads, each with 2ft. nylon covered steel cable attached.
- very easy to fit, no special tools required
- single keying available for multiple installations, please call for details
- NoteBook version available, contains 1 pad, 5ft cable, padlock & carry case

'Minder' security lock	£54.45	042-414

DISCOUNT AVAILABLE ON VOLUME ORDERS

CALL *RM DIRECT !* ON 01235 826216

RMUG 18th Training Weekend

20th to 22nd October 1995

Novotel, Nottingham

Research Machines User Group again offers a varied, stimulating and affordable INSET programme to accommodate users of standalone or networked computers at all levels of experience, from novice to manager.

You will also have many opportunities to meet other users and to share solutions to common problems and examples of good practice.

Sessions covering all Key Stages include the usual successful combination of workshops, hands-on experience, presentations and demonstrations on Word 6, Access (Beginners and Intermediate), Excel (Intermediate and Advanced), Control on the Cheap, Control (Econamatics), Publisher, Window Box, Internet, OS2, Windows 3.1, Network strategy and several others. Details of the sessions are given in the programme insert.

Special Primary Track A new initiative for this year is the Primary Track on Saturday 21st October only, on RM Window Box for KS1 and 2.

Please contact the Freepost address below for further details.

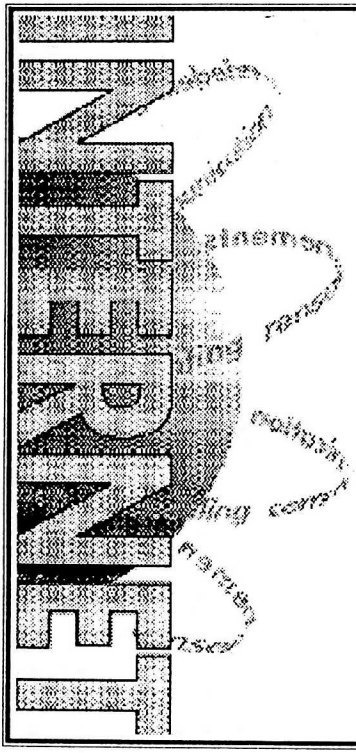
The rates for the weekend, including training, course notes and materials, single** room accommodation, ensuite bathroom and all meals are

	Member	Non-member*
Weekend	£250	£270
Sat only	£75	£90

Other combinations may be available
* Inclusive of 1 year's membership of RM User group

**Accommodation is in double rooms. Nottingham and its environs have much to offer partners, who can share your room, paying only for meals taken at the hotel.

Reserve your place now by sending a cheque for deposit of £25 made payable to RMUG Training Weekend and send it with your name, address and telephone number to: RMUG Training Weekend, FREEPOST, Esher, Surrey, KT10 0BR or write now for further details.



RM

INTERNET FOR LEARNING

DEDICATED TO EDUCATION
AVAILABLE TO ALL SCHOOL, COLLEGE AND HOME USERS

Subscription **only** £120 per year.
Set up fee £25

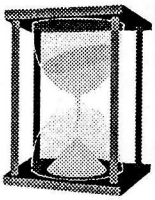
Also available, ready to use Internet Connection packs which includes a modem, setup fee & 1 years subscription available from **only** £295

Suitable for most platforms including Archimedes and PC

Connect today by calling RM on
(01235) 826868

Want to improve the performance of your PC?

Windows '95 is on the horizon and todays 32 bit software are all making increasing demands on your system. With the Intel DX2 and DX4 Overdrive Processors you can upgrade your 486PC at a fraction of the replacement cost.



- Perfect for mathematical packages
- Ideal for handling graphics
- Integer & floating point units

50-80% Improvement in all applications!

For 486 SX & DX 25MHz Systems	
DX2-50MHz	£95
DX4-75MHz	£149
For 486 SX & DX 33MHz Systems	
DX2-66MHz	£145
DX4-100MHz	£199

the power of the computer is just too big a leap for me to cope with - I just got fed up with waiting for things to happen.

The right mouse button is now used as much as the left button; right clicking on almost anything brings up a menu, often with Properties as one of the options. For example, if you want to change your colour scheme you don't have to worry about finding control panel (but you can if you want) - you just right click on the desktop and choose properties. The dialogue which appears allows you to change colours, wallpaper, screen saver and even video driver. You can also change the size of font used for dialogues and so on and by choosing a custom size you can make sure that rulers etc. on screen are actually showing in life size. Unfortunately this doesn't work properly with some programs and fonts get broken up but the idea is brilliant.

I've now moved to 32 bit network cards in my System Base server; it's too early to say whether it will make a big difference to the speed of the network because the system's not yet been used in anger but my initial tests suggest that it's working well. My only problem came because I put them in in the "wrong" order. My Lan Spool stations were set up on the assumption that the card nearest to the top of the server was the first card (port address 300H on the card) but the installation for the 32 bit cards put the card I put in first as the first card - and this was at the bottom. As far as I know this doesn't matter but it does mean that I had to change the queue drivers round in Printer Manager. Incidentally, Lan Spool has to be re-serialised if you change network cards but there are instructions in the manual on how to do this; it's a bit tedious but it's straight forward.

I've also installed Smart Bridge which means that I regain about 10k of memory on my stations which was used for routing- vital on the S-Series machines to get a few DOS programs working. Removing routing also means that machines running Windows for Workgroups can also connect to the Lan Manager network. I don't know yet whether this is going to be a good or bad thing but at least I can try it out and see how I get on. Installing Smart Bridge was very easy; if you currently use routing and want to either use Workgroups or need to regain some memory then it's well worth the £149 that RM charge. Another change that I've just made is to install a tiny TSR (it's about 200 bytes) to take the place of the standard Microsoft Keyb program which sets up the UK keyboard. I don't know why the Microsoft program is so big or this is so small but it seems to do what I need (putting the £ sign etc where they belong) so I'm happy!

Printers continue to cause me more trouble than almost anything else. We now have a number of Kyocera Ecosys laser printers and, as I've said before, I'm very pleased with them. One of them is shared between two M-Series 286 computers in the staff room and I had some problems getting it to work properly

© *RM User Group 1995*

with Windows 3.1 It looks as if Microsoft have written the HP Laserjet III driver to use some 386 code and this causes a general protection fault on the 286. At first I tried using the Windows 3.0 version of the driver. This worked well but does not allow access to the True Type fonts so it was back to the drawing board. Kyocera have a bulletin board which is free to use and I found a version of their own driver on this. This seemed to work well for the 286s so I thought I would install it for the network queues which drive Kyoceras; I like to have things as standard as I can. I hit all sorts of problems with the queues and was nearly ready to give up when I read something about long printer names on OS/2; the default name for the Kyocera printer is too long and gets everything confused. Editing OEMSETUP.INF to make the name shorter solved all the problems and everything's now working well.

In the next issue I hope to have some information about the Proteus drive from Cumana. This is a dual purpose drive which will read standard CD ROM's and also read and write special magneto optical discs holding about 600Mb of data. It seems like a really good idea and I'm looking forward to trying it out.

I am told there is a gang show in Windows 95. Right click the desktop, select New Folder and name it 'and now the moment we've all been waiting for' (without the quotes) Right click on the folder again and rename it to 'we proudly present for your viewing pleasure'. Right click the folder once more and rename it to 'The Microsoft Production Team!' Open the folder and see what happens.

© RM User Group 1995

Hard disc problems.

Compuserve Download

Our Director of studies decided to add a second hand hard disc to his machine. In spite of being a reputable brand (Conner) it didn't have any markings on it to identify the parameters you need to set it up in BIOS. (I know we are all going on to Plug and Play but some kit is still at the Plug and Pray stage) I don't know why these details are never printed on the casing of the hard-disc. Anyway, I plugged in to Compuserve and within 10 minutes had a full listing of all the Conner model numbers along with their parameter sets and a step by step listing of setting up a master & slave arrangement. I am printing the latter because it applies to any model but I have the other data handy if anyone needs it!

562609 S1/Disk/Disk Utilities 02-Apr-95 00:28:19 Sb: #add 2nd HD basics? Fm: Phil

To: all Would someone spell out the basics of adding a second HD for a first timer? I have a 386sx-16 with 20mb HD (ST-225). I'm adding an NEC 42mb (D3142). I would like to have the 42mb as the new c: drive or to have them set up as master/slave (either would do). I need to know basics like which cable connector to which drive. When to change CMOS settings. When to do FDISK. The new drive is something of an unknown quantity in that I don't know what's on it how it was formatted etc. I'm assuming that it has been low-level formatted but who knows? I'd like to copy the contents of old to new, but the mb's involved are small enough that I could install everything manually if need be. Thanks for your help -Phil

Fm: thomasTo: Phil

Here's the basics: You want to change your master drive and make and your old drive the 'slave.' You need to configure the jumpers on each drive..the bootable one you need to configure as a 'master' (see it's manual) and the other is the 'slave'. Install them in the case, connect the hd cable, the terminating end to the master and the other connection to the slave, then to the controller card. Run the BIOS setup program and enter the parameters. Run Fdisk from a floppy. Make a primary partition and a logical drive on the master (drive 1), this will be 'C', and make an 'extended DOS partition' and logical drive on the slave (drive 2). This will be drive 'D'. Format C and D, making C a system drive (format c: /s) Note: you'll lose all the data on the hd you have now. I can't think of a way of making it go from being the sole drive to being the slave w/o losing everything. Maybe someone else can help at this point.

This thread continues - I can send you a copy if needed.

© *RM User Group 1995*

David Palmer's Bookmarks

http://e-math.ams.org/">e-MATH Home Page
http://www.ils.nwu.edu/~e_for_e/" Welcome to Engines for Education
http://www.ieunet.ie/ois/irishtimes/index.shtml" The Irish Times Corner
http://www.dungeon.com/" Dungeon Network Systems W.W.W. Server.
http://www.artnet.org/iamfree/" Internet Arts Museum for free
http://id.wing.net/"
http://wombatix.physics.ucg.ie/" Wombat Research Home Page
http://www.dur.ac.uk/ University of Durham Home Page
http://www.cnam.fr/ CNAM
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/ The Electronic Telegraph
http://www.rmplc.co.uk/eduweb/sites/ackworth/index.html Ackworth School
http://www.voyagerco.com/LA/VgerLa.html laurie anderson
http://www.ziff.com:8000/Welcome_noimap.html" Welcome to ZD net
http://www.bbcnc.org.uk/ BBC TV
http://ecf.hq.eso.org/stecf-nl-22/toc.html ST-ECF Newsletter
http://www.stevens-tech.edu/~jformoso/hyperdiscordia.html HyperDiscordia, Confusion for a New Generation
http://services.esrin.esa.it/ Earth Remote Sensing User Services
http://web66.coled.umn.edu/ Web 66
http://www.vpro.nl/eng-home.html VPRO ENGLISH HOMEPAGE
http://www.liv.ac.uk/~evansjon/home.html UK School Resources Home Page
http://www.hotwired.com/Lib/Wired/ Back Issues of Wired Magazine
http://www.rmplc.co.uk/eduweb/sites/rmug/index.html RM User Group
http://192.216.48.63/ Welcome to InfoWorld
http://www.ed.ac.uk/ EDINFO - The University of Edinburgh's Information Service
http://www2.infoseek.com/ InfoSeek Net Search
http://www.ust.hk/ HKUST HOME PAGE

This is a printout of my Bookmark file which is automatically maintained by Netscape. By the nature of the World Wide Web it is possible that some of these sites have changed their URL (Universal Resource Locator). Some sites manage to get their visitors redirected but others don't. If this happens and you want to see if the site still exists, try one of the search engines.

 © RM User Group 1995

How to connect to the CIS internet service from within Windows 95.

This is a step by step instruction of how to connect to the CIS internet service and elaborates on Andrew Sanders (100522,1765) WIN95PPP.TXT file dates 2 May 1995 and is based on my personal experiences.

There are two possibilities to make Spry Mosaic run under Windows 95:

1) Use the winsock.dll file and internet dialer provided with the Netlauncher. When you do this, you will not be able to take full advantage of the 32 bit networking provided with Windows 95. 2) Use the winsock.dll file provided with Windows 95. This will enable you to take full advantage of the 32 bit networking that comes with Windows 95 and to run 32 bit Winsock applications such as the Netscape for Windows NT.

Use the original winsock and internet dialer

When you install Windows 95 after you have installed Spry Mosaic, Windows will replace the existing winsock.dll with a new winsock.dll which will not work with the dialer. You therefore have to re-install Netlauncher. Follow these steps: - re-install Netlauncher according to the instructions provided - Netlauncher will rename the winsock.dll file in the windows directory to winsock.000 and replace it with its own winsock.dll - using Explorer or Find, locate the newly installed winsock.dll in the windows directory. - copy this file to the mosaic directory - move this file to the cid directory - rename winsock.000 to winsock.dll. This way other Windows applications can still use the winsock.dll provided by windows 95 - shut down your computer and then restart - make sure that no other application is using your modem port - start Spry Mosaic

Use the winsock.dll provided by Windows 95

1). Make sure that you have the winsock.dll that came with windows 95 in your windows directory (this file has a size of approximately 41k).

2). Click on the control panel and then click on Network. Click on the add button and a new menu will appear. If TCP/IP is not installed select Protocol, click the add button. This will bring up the "Select Network Protocol" dialog. Choose "Microsoft" from the Manufacturers list and "TCP/IP" from the Network Protocols list. Click OK.

3). TCP/IP should now be installed in the "Following networks are installed window" Make sure TCP/IP is selected and press properties. Click on the "IP Address" tab and choose "obtain an IP address from a DHCP server". Click on the Bindings tab and make sure Client for Microsoft Network is ticked. Then choose the "DNS configuration" tab. Make sure "Enable DNS is chosen". Your domain name is

© *RM User Group 1995*

"Compuserve.com", enter "none" for the host. In the DNS search order type 149.174.211.5 and 149.174.213.5. Leave all other settings untouched. Click on OK and OK again to exit Network. You will then be asked to reboot your computer.

4). You will now need to configure Dial-up Networking to connect to Compuserve. Check "My Computer" to see if Dial-up Networking is installed. If it isn't you can install this using the add programs facility on the control panel. Once you've done this make sure you've set up your modem on the control panel. Then open the dial-up networking folder and choose "Make New Connection" Give your connection a name and enter the phone number. Then highlight your new connection with the mouse and press the right mouse button, select properties. Choose server type and on the type of dial up server click on the arrow and choose PPP:Windows 95, Windows NT Internet. The only box that should be checked on this page should be TCP/IP. DO NOT allow software compression. There is a bug in Windows 95 that stops you using this with CIS. Click on OK and choose configure to set up your modem. Click on the connection button and make sure your settings are 8,N,1. Finally press options and select "bring up terminal window after dialing". Then press Ok and Ok again.

5). You are now ready to dial. Make sure the box for your User ID and password is left blank, click on your connection icon and then click connect. On connection a terminal window appears. Here's the pain: because you need to set your modem to 8,N,1 to connect to the internet the characters will appear scrambled in this window, but you will just about be able to make them out. Press return, type CIS, return, type your USERID, return, type your password, return, type GO PPPCONNECT and return. Now look carefully for a row of scrambled characters, when you see these click continue on the terminal window. After a few seconds you will get a message to say you are connected to the Internet. You can now open your Web browser and get surfing with unscrambled characters. You will have to repeat this dialing procedure every time you want to go surfing. I had problems running Spry Mosaic with the Windows 95 provided winsock, giving a winsock error when trying to load a new homepage. With NCSA Mosaic everything works fine and this program even has a page cache which makes it faster.

PS I should mention that Andrew Sanders, the original author of this note has also offered to reply to any queries as far as possible. Andrew Sanders (100522,1765)

Compuserve are on 0800 289458

© *RM User Group 1995*

RMUG 18th Training Weekend

Main Session Details

RM Connect - Network Strategy

Representatives of the RM Connect Development Team
Throughout Saturday RM will provide a number of sessions looking at the future of networking. These will be based upon their recent release of RM Connect. The individual sessions will be tailored for participants with different experiences.

Using Excel with Social Trends Data

Steve Rochford - Latymer Upper School
This course will look at how to present the datafiles which are provided for Social Trends '95. It is aimed at people with some previous experience of Excel.

Using Excel as a Database

Phillip Fox - University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate
This course will examine how Excel can be used as a database. The data will be taken from a variety of sources including Social Trends '95.

Microsoft Word 6 - Intermediate

Jo Hollis - Learning Curve
This session will develop participants' skills in using Word 6. It is suitable for anyone with previous experience of Word for Windows who wishes to develop their skills further.

Microsoft Word 6 - Advanced

Jo Hollis - Learning Curve
This session will look at the creation of Macros in Word 6. It is suitable for anyone with previous experience of Word for Windows 6 who wish to develop Macros.

Control on the Cheap

Lyndon Evans - Merthyr Tydfil College
This course will look at using standard IBM PC compatibles for control purposes on limited funds. The course will look in particular at the use of some of the Maplin Electronics kits.

Campus World Demo

Ian Webster - BT
This session will centre upon a demonstration of the use of Campus World.

Desktop Publishing with Microsoft Publisher

Steve Rochford - Latymer Upper School
The course is aimed at those who are familiar with Windows applications but have no experience of Publisher. It is also suitable for those who have some DTP experience. During the session several different documents will be prepared.

RM Window Box for KS1/2

RM Primary Support Team
This course will look at the software that is provided in the most recent Window Box systems. As well as demonstrations participants will have ample opportunity to try out the various software under the expert tutelage of the RM team.

RM Window Box - Its Place in Education

Fred Whipp - Hackney Professional Development Centre
RMs Window Box is packed with resources. This session will look at the equipment, the software and consider this machine's contribution to work within education and its potential impact as a tool to support the delivery of the latest National Curriculum orders.

Microsoft Access - Beginners

Jo Hollis - Learning Curve
This is a repeat of last year's highly popular course. It introduces Access and explains the basic principles of database work using Microsoft Access.

RM Colour Magic

RM Support Team
This session will provide an opportunity for participants to examine the features provided in the painting package developed by RM for education.

More...

 © RM User Group 1995

ILS - One Year On.

Colin Watkins - Integrated Learning Systems
A look at the what has happened to ILS since the last training weekend, the lessons learnt, the advances noted and the future.

RM Window Box - Investigate and Live Logger

RM Primary Support Team
A detailed look at the use of Investigate, Live Logger equipment and their place in the primary curriculum. This session is also suitable for people who wish to have an introduction to data logging.

Key Solutions

Key Solutions staff
A look at some of the elements provided by Key Solutions as part of the adminstration solutions provided by RM.

Control Using Economatics Equipment

Economatics representatives
A folow on session from last years very popular course looking at Control in the National Curriculum.

Microsoft Access - Intermediate

Jo Hollis - Learning Curve
This session will examine the production of tables, forms and reports using Microsoft Access. Also included will be a look at how Macros can be used.

Windows 3.1 on Net 3.1

Hugh Wilding - Maidenhead College
No funding available to upgrade from RM Net to RM Net LM? Find out how Windows 3.1 can run on RM Net 3.1.

RM Net Question and Answer Session and Hardware Surgery

Stephen Sharrad - Henley College
Question and answer session on RM Networks pre Net LM.

Got an old RM machine that has broken down? Now is a chance to see whether it can be repaired and whether it is worth it.

Primary Desktop Publishing using Winword and Paintbrush

Sarah Chandler - Latymer Upper School
A look at how Winword and Paintbrush can be used in simple desktop publishing.

Surf the Internet

David Palmer - Ackworth School
An opportunity to assess what all the hype is about whilst having your hand held by David. David will also show some of the things that he has found on the Net!

Open Session Details

Networking Multimedia

A look at some of the multimedia CD's that can sensibly be networked using RM Networks.

Multimedia Authoring for Beginners

An introduction to the capabilities and limitations of current multimedia systems. This session will cover producing a document, containing pictures and sound, and an interactive presentation file.

Participants are requested to bring a passport size photograph of themselves to this session.

Internet HTML

Look at what makes a good web page and learn how to put together your own.

An Educational Geographical Information System

A look at the AEGIS software and some examples of it in use.

OS/2 Warp or Windows '95

A quick look at the benefits of these two new operating systems.

RM Window Box - Illuminatus

A look at the tools in Illuminatus for the production of eye-catching multimedia presentations. This session considers the use of Illuminatus with younger pupils.

RM Management Tools for Netware

A look at the management tools that RM provide for those users with Netware networks.

© *RM User Group 1995*

Shoptalk

by David Palmer

Where would you like to go today?
I had to laugh when after installing the might of Windows 95 and office 95 the first thing that Word 7 said to me was 'Remember it is dangerous to run with scissors'. I agree with Steve about some of the illogical steps that are very frustrating. My least favourite is when you install an application through the control panel. The install wizard asks you where the setup file is and when you find it to click on a button marked 'Finish'! Even though I have done it a few times, it goes against the grain to say 'Finish' when I want a process to start. I am also a bit dubious about the value of going through the Control Panel to install software. At first I thought it was so that you could go back later and uninstall, making sure that the stray dll files would be deleted too. This is not the case! I think the main purpose of installing this way is to register new programs which are OLE2 compliant. I went to the Start It Up tour. In the taxi the driver asked me where I was going. 'To the Windows 95 show' I said. 'Are they the PVC ones?' he asked. Inside the West Yorkshire Playhouse, 400 yuppies tried to muffle their cellphones as the show started. 'Looks like Bill didn't make it' I said to my neighbour. 'Bill who?' he said. 'Bill Gates'. 'Who's he?'. I told the Microsoft people afterwards - I thought they should know about this - but they wouldn't believe me. During the show we saw a hot-docking Compaq laptop in action. You can plug it into its dock while it is on and it automatically picks up the local network. This is the ultimate 'Plug and Play' and I hope one day we will see this technology in RM kit. We nearly saw an even hotter display when the presenter went to plug a SCSI card in a desktop with the power on. There is a really neat facility built into Excel in Office 95 where simply highlighting a group of cells produces a sum in the lower window frame (near where Word2 puts OVR). Right clicking on the sum allows you to choose other functions.

Do you have a Personal Mission?
Buried in Schedule + there is a set of exercises designed to help you with your Personal Mission Statement. These include a collection of nuggets of 'Wisdom' that would make delivering sermons a piece of cake. Perhaps we should start a campaign 'Bill Gates for Pope'.

Help
I must take my hat off to Novell. Our office use Word Perfect. They called me in after a series of GPF (General Protection Fault) problems. I called Novell who gave me a solution (kill the BIF file) over the phone and followed it up with an 11 page fax with some very useful advice on GPFs. The fax was very

© *RM User Group 1995*

legible, well written and informative. For the first time, there is some reference to the memory addresses that are given in GPFs. I have always religiously noted these down but never found a technical support person who wanted to know what they were. If you are interested, the key bit of advice seems to be to include EMMExclude=A000-EFFF in the [386Enh] section of System.ini. Of course you should always make a back-up before making any changes of this nature. I noticed that the addresses in the GPF messages nearly always fall within the band covered by this line. As always, I would welcome your comments on this matter.

Fun School

Europress - who produced the lovely Alice CDROM I talked about last time - have done it again. This time it is a CD called Fun School Science and it uses cartoons and clickable characters to engage the children who can then get involved with a range of activities like matching pairs, finding hidden drawings, jigsaws and colouring. There are also a series of instructions for experiments and discussions of scientific topics. The animations are witty and work well as bait! Call them on 01625 859333.

External CDROM Drive

Cumana, 01483 503121, sent over their parallel port CDROM drive and it works efficiently (if rather slowly). The software installed first time and the drive has run without complaint on a desktop and attached to my laptop - unlike the Phillips drive on the desktop which appears every time for Windows 3.1 and DOS sessions but blinks in and out of existence as far as Windows 95 is concerned. I did spend some time using the 'Scan for new hardware option' (in vain - why can't we tell this app what sort of new hardware to look for?) but now I just accept it as part of the mysteries of the universe. I can see a device like this being tremendously useful for installing software on a number of standalone machines. Having installed software once from a CDROM you do not want to go back to a pile of floppies. They are also releasing a writable CD drive and Steve is going to try it out. I got some excellent technical support from them when we had trouble with the CDROM drive in the library, some bright soul had inserted a floppy disc on top of a CD caddy. Reminds me of the conjecture that someone sometime will sue Microsoft for failing to say 'Please remove disc 1' before putting up the message 'Please insert disc 2'.

Is this a deal or what!

Micrografx, 01483 747526, have a very good offer out. £99 for a CDROM with Designer 4, Picture Publisher & Kai's Power Tools. (I think the 'official price is £149 but I have seen it advertised at £99) They are also one of the companies who have a Windows 95 version of their software coming out. Picture Publisher is one of those pieces of software that have grown and grown. It now

© *RM User Group 1995*

contains so many options and so much power that it would take a lot of time to make the most of it. Fortunately for those of us with the odd chore or two to get on with, it is possible to get very useful results on the run.

Cleared to land

The RAF, 01202 660275, have released their latest piece of educational software. This has four scenarios for air traffic control and is free. I was really impressed with the robustness of their previous offerings and was surprised to find that this one (a) had not moved up to Windows and (b) behaved in a rather flaky way. Considering their track record - and the fact that I haven't had time to call them and find out if I have just got a duff copy - it is probably worth checking it out for yourselves, especially since it comes with a large set of worksheets.

Pinpoint (Landing . . .)

Talking of worksheets, Longman Logotron, 01223 425558, have produced an excellent set to go with Junior Pinpoint for Windows. You can get the worksheets and the datafiles to go with them on a CDROM with a standalone version of the program for less than £100. It is all very nicely done but I can't get away from the feeling that I would rather spend the time on Excel.

Clarisworks works OK

Claris have now released Clarisworks 4 this time simultaneously for Windows and the Mac. I still can't understand why this program hasn't blown the rest away. The way that its tools appear seamlessly in each area make it a joy to use. Now added to that are step by step guides (Wizard style) to take you through many processes, such as Mail Merge and creating labels. You can call Claris on 0800 929005. In an interesting development, Claris are offering a £49 truce upgrade offer if you have a copy of Claris that you didn't buy!

Top Marks

I recently bought a lovely CDROM called 'Ephemeral Films'. I bought it from Susanna Worsley at Cassiopea, 01204 535424. Although I often buy direct, I like to buy from Susanna because she always follows through any query with properly researched data. I don't know of any other person in this business for whom I can say the same. Susanna does this whether it results in a sale or not and, although I have often passed on queries from departments which have not ended in sales, she is unfailingly positive for later enquiries. 21 gun salute please!

Creating Chaos

I have been trying to create some multimedia documents. Illuminatus is not bad but I have been very frustrated with Creator. In one of the demos that come with it, clicking on the Exit button dumps you (very quickly I might add) at the c: prompt. There is no 'You are leaving Windows' dialog. This could traumatise some users quite severely!!

© *RM User Group 1995*

Your Magazine

I make no apologies for leaving this page as it is since I agree with every word!

I really do welcome items for the magazine from anyone. You don't have to be a great writer to send something in; send a letter or a short tip for the Hints and Tips pages, everything is welcome. If you want to phone and talk something over then please do; even if you aren't sure how to write something down then I can always include your ideas in Hints and Tips or as a plea for help; some of you will recognise your phone calls on the Hints and Tips pages!

I would be particularly pleased to hear from the people who are using RM computers at home; there are quite a lot of you out there. Some of you will be experienced at working with computers and I would be interested to know why you chose RM for home use. Others will have responded to RM's advertising, perhaps because your children use the same computers at school. How are you getting on with your new machine? Did you have any problems getting started?

It doesn't matter if you still don't know the answer to the problem- this is how you'll find out - and it doesn't matter if you think that your problem was trivial; remember that there are many other people who are going to be in exactly the same position as you and will welcome the help that you can give.

If you are writing for me then the ideal is to send me a disc produced using Word or Word for Windows but I can cope with any word processor that runs on a PC or Nimbus (I think). If what you are sending is short then a letter on good old fashioned paper is fine. I can also accept articles left on the bulletin board - the easiest way to do this is to prepare your article in a word processor and save it normally. You then send a short e-mail to me and attach your file to it when you are on-line. It's actually easier to do than to describe because the whole thing is menu driven.

Finally, we pay for published articles at the rate of £5 per printed page (although all payments are at the Editor's discretion).

Advertising in the Magazine

Full and half page advertisements can be placed in the magazine and details can be obtained from the Advertising Manager. We also take classified ads and members may place free ads for surplus equipment in MicroMart.

Rates

Back Cover **£60** Inside Cover **£50**

Full Page **£30** Half Page **£20**

These rates assume black-on-white, camera ready copy or Pagemaker files. Please avoid dot-matrix output. Typesetting is charged at cost and is additional to the above rates. Please make cheques payable to *RM User Group*

 © RM User Group 1995

Membership Form

Please use capitals

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .....

Job title (if appropriate) .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Postcode .....

I enclose a cheque payable to RMUG/order for £18. If you are not enclosing a cheque then please send an official order, indicating clearly to whom the invoice should be sent.

In order to serve our members better we like to know something about them and what they do with their computers. The information you give is confidential and we are registered as Data Users under the Data Protection Act.

Are you involved in education?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, with what age range do you work:

below 11 ☐ 11-18 ☐ 18+ ☐

Do you use a computer at home?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please send your form and payment to:

RMUG, FREEPOST, Esher, Surrey, KT10 0BR

You may photocopy this form if you do not wish to cut your magazine.

© *RM User Group 1995*

Committee Members 1995/1996

Chairman Phillip Fox	2 Farm Meadow School Road Elmswell .... 01359 242209 Suffolk IP30 9BW email phillip.fox@rmbbs.com
Vice-Chair Edith Todd	19 Harvey Road, Walton-on-Thames Surrey, KT12 2PZ ..... 01932 863560(S)
Secretary Mary Mabey	Islington Green School, Prebend St ..... 0171 226 8611 London N1 8PQ email frescobaldi@rmplc.co.uk
Treasurer Hugh Wilding	The Bungalow Ray Lea Road..... 01628 71633 Maidenhead Berkshire SL6 8QA email ccourt@rmplc.co.uk
Membership Secretary Maureen Wernham	RMUG FREEPOST Esher Surrey KT10 0BR 40 Manor Drive, Hinchley Wood, Esher Surrey, KT10 0AX..... 0181 3981948
Advertising Manager Myfanwy Wallace	8 Cornwall Road Cheam Sutton Surrey SM2 6DR 0181 661 6408
Software Librarian Glenn Taylor	1 Frayne Road Ashton Bristol BS3 1RU 0117 963 5816
Editor David Palmer	Ackworth School, Pontefract, ... 01977 615225 West Yorkshire WF7 7LT email 100021.3420@compuserve.com
Ian Burgess	17 Beech Walk, Ewell, Epsom Surrey KT17 2NL..... 01426 947480 St Dunstan's College Stanstead Road Catford London SE6 4TY ..... 0181 690 1274 email stduncol@rmplc.co.uk
Steve Rochford	Latymer Upper School King Street ..... 0181 741 1851(S) London W6 9LR ..... 0181 740 5642(H) email srochford@cix.compulink.co.uk
Stephen Sharrad	10 Gainsborough Hill, Henley-on-Thames Oxfordshire, RG9 1ST 01491 577149
Peter Wallace	King's School, Satis House,..... 01634 843910 (S) Boley Hill Rochester Kent ME1 1TE..... 01634 811099 (H)
Gisela Legg	Restholm, Piddington Lane, Piddington, High Wycombe Bucks HP14 3BD ..... 01628 28255(S)
John Holden	51 Cardigan Rd, Reading RG1 5QL 01734 662689

 © *RM User Group 1995*

CUMANA

THE LEADERS IN EDUCATIONAL MULTIMEDIA

Oscar

- Easy to install, easy to use
- External 'plug in & go solution'
- Connects to parallel port of RM computers
- Built to ISO9000/BS5750 standards
- Can be moved between computers

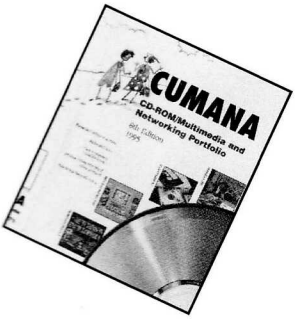
SAVE UP TO £50 + VAT!

ONLY £179 EX VAT!

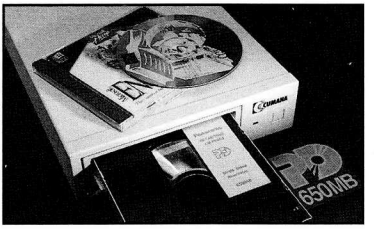
FROM JUST £549 EX VAT!

proTeus

- Worlds first combined optical/CD-ROM multi-function drive
- Use as high performance quad speed CD-ROM drive or use as optical rewritable drive
- Offers unlimited rewriting to 650Mb cartridges
- Ideal as system back up or a complement to internal hard drives
- Removable cartridges offer data security
- Available as internal or external units
- Prices start from just £549 ex VAT



For further details on these or other products telephone 01483 503121 for your free 68 page colour portfolio.



FREE MEDIA WORTH £39 EX VAT!

Cumana Limited
Pines Trading Estate, Broad Street, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3BH
Tel: 01483 503121 • Fax: 01483 451371 • Email: ntaylor@cumana.co.uk

When ordering please quote "RM User Group Offer".

NEW

StopIt

Now for RM Connect

The Print Job Management system for RM Net LM 1.2+2.0 and NT 3.5x (including RM Connect)

"We have noticed a serious reduction in the amount of paper wastage... ...a valuable resource to any school or college."
Dave Griffiths, Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education in RM User review

*"We've gone from 22,000 pages printed every week to only 11,000 since installing **StopIt**."*
Dave Laker, Basildon College

*"**StopIt** has revolutionised my working life!"*
Heather King, Writtle College

Net LM version requires a dedicated computer for counting pages.

Prices: Secondary Schools **£349**
Other institutions* **£899**

Extra Printers Support Pack **£75**
(provides Epson, IBM and Integrex support)

Prices are per LAN or Domain
(discount available for more than one copy).
* Use Secondary School pricing
if you have less than 1000 students on roll.

NEW

Grass *for Windows*

An uncomplicated database program for KS 2-4.
Requires 386SX processor, or better, and 4Mb of RAM.
Available for Windows 3.0 or later (including Windows 95).

To order, please contact **Newman Software Limited** at
Newman College, Genners Lane, Bartley Green, Birmingham, B32 3NT.
Telephone: 0121 476 1181 *(Please specify if for Windows 3.0.)*

£49 Primary School Site Licence, £99 Secondary School Site Licence

NEW

We are developing all our products for **RM Connect** and **Windows 95**. Some are ready now, others will be available very soon! Please enquire for details.

All prices exclude p&p (at £2.50) and VAT at the current rate.

flo COMPUTER SERVICES

14 Hutton Close, Keynsham, Bristol, BS18 1XW
Telephone and Fax: 0117 986 0885
email: flocs@rmplc.co.uk